Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00381 251016Z

20
ACTION EUR-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /023 W
---------- 027407
P 250930Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5828

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 0381

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, CZ
SUBJECT: CUSTODY CASE JIRI SAFAR
REF: A. STATE 32839, B. PRAGUE 0319

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN ASKED TO ASSIST AMERICAN CITIZENS, MR. AND MRS. DOUGLAS WAYNE COURTNEY OF LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA, WHO HAVE BEEN IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA SINCE SEPTEMBER 1973 CONDUCTING COURT CASE FOR CUSTODY OF MRS. COURTNEY'S TEN YEAR OLD SON, JIRI SAFAR, CONTESTED BY FORMER HUSBAND HERE. DISTRICT COURT IN BLANSKO AWARDED BOY TO COURTNEYS BUT FATHER'S APPEAL FOR CUSTODY NOW BEFORE REGIONAL COURT IN BRNO FOR FINAL DECISION. ACCORDING TO COURTNEY, DECISION EXPECTED EARLY OR MID-MARCH. COURTNEYS HAVE REFUSED LEGAL COUNSEL AND HAVE ARGUED CASE THEMSELVES.

2. ON ADVICE GIVEN THEM APPARENTLY BY BRNO JUDGE, COURTNEYS HAVE APPEALED TO EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE IN COMBATTING POLITICAL AND ANTI-AMERICAN OVERTONES INJECTED IN CASE BY BOY'S FATHER, A CP MEMBER, WHO HAS SUBMITTED AN INFLAMMATORY LETTER TO COURT FROM LOCAL CP ORGANIZATION. ACCORDING TO COURTNEYS, JUDGE HOPES THAT LOBBYING IN PRAGUE WITH EMBASSY'S HELP WILL OBTAIN FOR HIM SOME POLITICAL GUIDANCE WHICH WOULD PERMIT HIM TO TURN CHILD OVER TO MOTHER FROM A CAPITALIST COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO COURTNEY, JUDGE SAID THAT IF CASE COULD BE JUDGED ON ITS OWN MERITS ALONE, THE MOTHER WOULD RECEIVE CUSTODY.

3. IN RESPONSE TO COURTNEY'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 00381 251016Z

EMBASSY HAS ARRANGED MEETING BETWEEN THEM AND MFA OFFICIAL

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

AND HAS ASKED CZECHS TO LIGHTEN THEIR VISA AND MONETARY EXCHANGE REQUIREMENTS. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, AND HAVE EXPLAINED TO COURTNEYS THAT OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION AT THIS TIME IS LIKELY TO TRIGGER CZECH LINKAGE TO GABRIEL CASE. WE HAVE ALSO EXPLAINED WHY DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO INTERVENE ACTIVELY IN GABRIEL CASE.

4. COURTNEYS, WHO HAVE BEEN FAMILIAR WITH GABRIEL CASE, HAVE ASKED CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATOR TO DRAW ATTENTION OF GABRIEL CASE JUDGE TO RELEVANCE OF SITUATION THEY FACE HERE. AT SAME TIME, IF DEPARTMENT FINDS IT POSSIBLE, IT MAY HELP COURTNEYS IF COURT COULD HAVE ITS EXPLANATION OF HOW TWO CASES RELATED, INCLUDING TIME FACTOR, SINCE BOTH CASES FACE EARLY DECISION. WE REALIZE, OF COURSE, LIMITS ON OUR ABILITY TO INTERVENE AT EITHER END, BUT BELIEVE THAT USE OF INFORMED GOOD OFFICES WILL HELP THESE DISTRAUGHT PARENTS TO ACCEPT IDEA THAT USG IS HELPING THEM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
WORTZEL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PRAGUE00381
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740211/aaaaakev.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 32839, B. PRAGUE 0319
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <10 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUSTODY CASE JIRI SAFAR
TAGS: CASC, CZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005